CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

   obtaining quality of service (QoS) data related to information flow through a data communications network;

   receiving input data from an application;

   producing impaired data from the input data, the impaired data being impaired to a level corresponding to the QoS data; and

   providing the impaired data to the application.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the data communications network is a wireless network.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the QoS data includes information indicative of a distribution of throughput.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the QoS data includes information indicative of a time correlation of throughput.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the QoS data includes information empirically determined.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the QoS data includes information modeled from empirically determined data.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the QoS data includes information indicative of a distribution of throughput.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the impaired data includes intentionally corrupted data packets.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the impaired data includes intentionally lost data packets.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the impaired data includes randomly impaired data packets.

11. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein providing the impaired data includes intentionally delaying data packets.

12. The method as claimed in claim 1 further including receiving information indicative of a sequence of movements through the data communications network, the information indicative of a sequence of movements through the data communications network being used to access corresponding QoS data.

13. The method as claimed in claim 1 further including receiving information indicative of user input to the application, the information indicative of user input to the application being used to produce the impaired data.